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Let's Fortify Freedom With Faith

(Sermon by Dr. Stephen T. Harvin, South Jacksonville Presbyterian Church, Jacksonville, Florida. In asking consent to have the sermon printed in the Appendix of the March 26, 1956 issue of the Congressional Record, which was granted, Senator George A. Smathers, of Florida, said, "Dr. Harvin recently received an award from the Freedom Foundation at Valley Forge, Pa., for this very excellent sermon, and I highly recommend its reading to the Members of Congress.")

The price of freedom is eternal vigilance, and the man who forgets to be on his guard finds that sooner or later he himself will lose this wonderful thing we call freedom. In America we love it; boast of it. It is great, but believe me, we can lose it; and once it is lost, it is hard to regain. Let's fortify freedom, for certainly freedom needs to be fortified. Let us not forget it can be lost.

There are enemies beyond the bounds of America and there are plenty of them. In our day and generation we have the menace of communism as it seems to grow stronger and stronger every year. Why? I shall tell you the reason why. Our friend, Dr. Frank Price, last year's moderator of the Presbyterian Church, United States, who also was the last man of our church to be run out of China, said that a young Chinese spoke to him, and said, "Christianity can give the world a better social order than Marxianism ever can; but you see, We Marxians believe in ours. We give our time. We live on a moderate income and give the rest for propagation purposes of Marxianism. Until you Christians believe Christianity enough to live it, to sacrifice, to work for it, we Marxians are in the lead." To fortify freedom with faith calls for every American to stand true, to live for the gospel of Christ, our Lord.

We can lose it in another generation because we are living in a day and generation when great giants are awakening all over the world. Did you read Collier's magazine last week? Chester Bowles tells something about Africa, that great giant that is awakening fast. In the next 25 years Africa shall speak and every man that lives will hear her voice. Will Africa speak with us or against us? Here is the great danger of the next two decades. Mr. Bowles makes this one bright picture, however; thank God the Christian missionary has been to Africa and the leaders now in the revolution in Africa, who are helping Africa awake out of its darkness, are native Christians. That is one great hope.

The other hope, he said, is that in America we have over 16 million descendants of Africa, and as they know and taste of justice, peace, and love in America and know the Christian cause, we are that much surer of ourselves. Let's fortify freedom with faith. Believe me, freedom needs fortifying.

What Is Freedom?

Certainly in our country we must fortify freedom for we know what it means to be free to worship, free to work, free from want, free from fear. But what is freedom? We talk about fortifying it; we talk about possessing it in America, but what is freedom after all? It is not the ability, the right, and the liberty to do what you want, when you want, and how you want. This is anarchy, and once it comes, then everybody loses his freedom. But what is freedom? Freedom, my friends, is simply taking the Golden Rule and putting it into practice, doing unto others as you would have them do unto you. Freedom is respecting the rights of the other man. You, too, possess your right to live for your good, for the glory of God, and the good of other people. These three: you, the eternal God, and your fellow man, are all considered in this great work of freedom, and once any one of the three is forgotten, freedom is lost.

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Pennsylvania Shoolmen Report on Bible Reading and Prayer in the Public Schools of the State

By DR. R. H. MARTIN, President-Emeritus of National Reform Association

The following Questionnaire was sent to approximately 325 Pennsylvania Schoolmen—County Superintendents, District (city & town) Superintendents, Supervising Principals and High School principals of the Public Schools of Pennsylvania in May, 1956. To date replies have been received from 233.

QUESTIONNAIRE ON BIBLE READING IN THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS OF PENNSYLVANIA

The following information is desired for a study of present practice of Bible Reading in the Public Schools of Pennsylvania. The results of the study will be used for an article to be printed in the *Christian Statesman*. There is to be no attempt in the study to change or to criticize present practices in your school. Do you wish a copy of this report.....? (Please answer questions by placing (√) in proper space.)

The Bible is read daily in our school by: A student .....

The teacher in the classroom .....

Assembling in a chapel service .....

Means of a public address system .....

Other ways .....

Is prayer offered in connection with Bible Reading .....?

Have you had any negative reactions to your present practice of reading the Bible in the Schools of Pennsylvania: None ..... Student criticism ..... Faculty criticism ..... Parent criticism ..... Others .....?

Many school systems, such as the Pittsburgh School System, allow released time for religious instruction. Does your school system .....?

Do you have special emphasis on Bible Reading as a part of programs held in your school at: Easter ..... Thanksgiving ..... Christmas ..... Baccalaureate Service ..... Other occasions .....?

As a school administrator, how much do you think Bible Reading in schools contributes to better character building among the youth of our schools: A great deal ..... Definitely of some value ..... No noticeable effect ..... Of no value .....?

(Space here for names and addresses of Schoolmen replying)

Please address reply to: Dr. R. H. Martin,
R. D. #2, Cheswick, Pennsylvania

FINDINGS ON THE BASIS OF RETURNS

I. Daily Bible Reading

The law requires that "At least ten verses from the Holy Bible shall be read or caused to be read without comment at the beginning of each public school or each school day by the teacher in charge. . . ."

The reports show that this requirement is carried out 100%. Not one schoolman reports the Bible is not read. The reports indicate that about one half the time the reading is by the teacher in the classroom. The remainder by the students. In many schools chapel exercises are held once each week at which the Bible is read, frequently by a student. Of the four different ways in which the devotional services may be conducted—by the teachers, students, in chapel exercises and over the public address system—quite a number say all four are employed.

The Superintendent of the Wilkinsburg schools says: 'Every day in chapel is the big day for one person (the student in charge). The reader makes his own selection of his favorite passage. This is a senior responsibility and means a great deal."

The replies indicate that appropriate Scripture passages are part of the special exercises with which many schools observe Christmas, Easter and Thanksgiving.

II. Prayer in Connection with Bible Reading

70% of the replies say the Lord's Prayer is repeated in connection with Bible reading. The Superintendent of the Pittsburgh schools expresses the sentiment which lies back of this widely used voluntary practice: "While there is no reference either in the Pennsylvania School code or the rules of the Board of Education of Pittsburgh to the use of the Lord's Prayer, the practice has become a traditional part of the opening of the Pittsburgh schools. The Superintendent therefore authorizes and requests all principals and teachers to continue this worthy custom."

III. Contribution To Character Building

As to Bible reading in the schools contribution to better character building among the youth of the school, of the 233 schoolmen replying:

52—22% say "A great deal"; 145—63% say "Definitely of some value";

21—9% say "No noticeable effect"; 3—1-1/3% say "Of no value"; the remainder, "Difficult to estimate"; "questionable"; "guessing"; 'very little or no value"; or do not answer.

Summing up: 85% say devotional Bible reading as now conducted has great value or is definitely of some value. "Bible reading and appropriate programs help set the 'tone' for the day," says one schoolman. A number of the 15% replies say—"Too routine," "Becoming just a formality"—indicate why Bible

Reading has little or no value. It is the lack of interest and of preparation for the exercise, not anything inherent in the practice. The remedy is manifest.

IV. Adverse Reaction to Bible Reading in the Public Schools

The claim is often made that the devotional reading of the Bible and the reciting of the Lord's prayer in the public schools results in religious controversy and strife, and therefore should be excluded from the schools.

The replies to this questionnaire disprove this claim at least so far as Pennsylvania schools are concerned. Of the 233 replies received 218 say no adverse reaction of any kind from any source. In the remaining 15 there is no evidence of any serious opposition. Following are sample replies: "Very, very little"; "Once in a great while", "Infrequently by denominational leaders." In two cases, "Occasionally Catholic children request they be permitted to read from the Catholic Bible, which is granted."

We submit that a perfect record from 94% of the replies and no serious trouble from the remaining 6% is about as near a perfect 100% record as is possible.

Note: The Bible reading law for Pennsylvania schools was enacted in 1913—43 years ago. It is still in force, without change. So far as we can learn no bill to repeal it has even been introduced into the Legislature.

V. Under the Heading—"Remarks"

"Character building grows from good examples and general environment. We believe the respect for Christian development is most important in the lives of our youth."

"Moral and Spiritual values based upon belief in God should be given a priority rating in our public schools."

"Scripture Vespers which feature the Scriptures is annually (At Christmas Time) presented to the student body and the community to approximately 3800 persons."

We conclude this report with the following submitted by the superintendent of the public schools of Beaver Falls, Pennsylvania.

DEVOTIONS

The following suggestions for the conduct of morning devotions should be carefully observed to make effective this activity in direct character training:

1. At least ten verses of scripture must be read without comment from a standard version of the Bible.

2. Select the scripture on a theme to fit the seasonal occasions or the immediate needs of the children. In the Primary and Intermediate grades the readings should be single incidents or stories which do not require sequential presentation. Each reading should be complete in itself—for example, the parable of the sower, the story of the sacrifice of Isaac, etc. Avoid the use of abstract passages; Psalms and Proverbs are not too fruitful for little children. Readings should be of positive and not negative incidents; for example the story of Ruth is positive while that of Lot's wife is negative.

Connected readings which bear cause and effect relationships should be used only in Junior and Senior High Schools.

4. Plan the devotional period carefully. The idea to be conveyed in devotionals may be enlarged by reading of appropriate illustrative prose or poetry, singing of songs, etc.

5. Students should volunteer to read in devotionals; the reading of scriptures should never be assigned to individuals or in rotation of students "around the room." Since devotions is not a reading lesson, no apology need be made for having the best readers in the class present the Scripture or other parts of the program. Even when more mature students largely assume responsibility for devotions, the teacher should conduct the program occasionally to set the standards.

6. With mature students, the cooperative preparation and presentation of the devotions is an excellent educational activity for the teaching of oral and written English as well as for training in thought or principles of moral value.

The Lord's Prayer should be said with distinctness and dignity. The teacher can help the students to understanding by her own clear and sincere enunciation of the prayer. She should listen to correct evident mis-understandings on the part of the pupils.

8. Devotions consume fresh and fruitful moments at the opening of the school day. These moments can be lost by thoughtlessness and unprepared devotions which may even teach dis-respect of the spiritual. On the other hand, these moments spent in an atmosphere of dignity in active or passive participation in devotions made meaningful through thought and preparation may well color the labors of the whole day for both teacher and students.

I SPEAK FOR CHRISTIAN CITIZENSHIP

(*Concluded from page* 8)

must show our loyalty by respecting the laws of the government and encouraging others to do so. By far the most important deeds we owe to our government and our civic officials, though, are our prayers. A powerful nation is a prayerful nation.

Remembering that "if we love one another, God abideth in us, and His love is perfected in us," Mr. Congressman, may every Christian citizen in Americe step forward proudly to conquer the world not with hate, but with Christ's message of love. This we owe to our country, our world, *our God!*

Yours in sincere endeavor for Him.

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CRIME IN AMERICA 1955

For the fourth successive year major crimes in America were over the 2-million mark. However, 1955 was the first year in eight not to register an increase in crime, but rather a slight decrease of two-tenths of one percent below 1954.

There were 2,262,450 estimated major crimes committed in 1955. There were increases of 5.9% in rape, 5.2% in auto theft, 3.7% in manslaughter by negligence, and 1.5% in larcency. There was no change in murder. However, there was a decrease of 14.7% in robbery, 5.1% in burglary and 0.9% in aggravated assault.

The total 1955 property loss to robberies, burglaries, auto thefts, and other larcencies was about $399 millions. This figure, however, was offset by a police recovery rate of about 57%.

Since 1950 there has been a percentage rise in crime almost three times as rapid as that of population, an increase of 26% in crime over against an increase in population of only 9% (since 1950).

In 1,477 cities of over 2,500 population, and with a total population of 41,792,800 based on the 1950 census, there were 1,861,764 arrests in 1955, or one arrest for every 22.4 persons. Of these arrests, 906,136 or 48.67% were caused solely by liquor. There were 772,943 arrests for drunkenness, or one arrest for every 54 persons. This would mean nearly two (1.85) arrests for drunkenness for every 100 persons in the United States on the basis of these reports from cities of 2,500 or more population, as compiled by the Federal Bureau of Investigation and reported in Uniform Crime Reports for the United States which the F.B.I. issued for release on April 30, 1956.

AMERICA'S RELIGIOUS FOUNDATIONS

On July 4th we celebrated the birth of our nation. What is a proper observance of the day? Fire works, games, sports, parades are in place but these do not point to its real significance. It is an opportune time to focus the attention of our people on the religious foundation on which our forefathers established our democracy, as they are set forth in the Declaration of Independence. This is a deeply religious document which calls for a religious observance of the day. God, under the various titles which set forth His character and attributes is named four times in the Declaration—"Nature's God," "The Creator of all men", "The Supreme Judge of the World," and "DIVINE PROVIDENCE."

Our Founding Fathers declared they were justified in severing their political bands with Great Britain and establishing themselves as an independent nation "By the law of nature and of nature's God."

With reference to the foundation on which they resolved to establish the new nation, they said; "We hold these truths to be self evident; that all men are created equal; that they are endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable rights; that among these are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness; that to secure these rights governments are instituted among men deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed."

Here God is declared to be not only the Creator of all men but the God who has bestowed on all men the right of life and liberty which cannot be taken from them. He is the Author of Governments established to secure these rights to them, the Fountain Source of the liberty and freedom which we as a nation highly prize and enjoy.

In declaring themselves to be a free and independent nation they appeal to "The Supreme Judge of the World for the rectitude of their intentions." This title given God involves belief in His rulership of nations and judging them by the standard of his moral law. Their supreme concern was to have His approval.

Finally our Founding Father's declared: "In support of this declaration with a firm reliance on Divine Providence we pledge each other our lives, our fortune, and our sacred honor." Here they again express faith in God's rulership over nations and in His providential protection and help in the struggle before them to achieve their independence. In this faith, as history proves, they were not disappointed.

Without the religious foundation on which our Forefathers established our democracy, neither our democracy nor any other can long endure.. This foundation must be maintained. The religious observance of July 4th will help to maintain it.

—R. H. Martin

COMMUNISTS CONTINUE ANTI-RELIGIOUS CAMPAIGN

The Russian people continue to be told by their Communist government that religion "is a spiritual poison" which serves "class exploitation," the U.S. Information Agency reports.

In dispatches to its posts overseas, the Information Agency quotes that message from a Russian language broadcast by the Grozny radio. The Soviet station also said that Eastern peoples created God

"as a reflection of monarchy on earth. . . . Thus we see that God did not create man, man created God."

At the same time Soviet communist party leaders in the Odessa region of the Southern Ukraine were told to strengthen anti-religious propaganda, the Information Agency says. The Odessa radio warned: 'Some time ago, great work was done in the field of atheistic propaganda, but now its tempo has slackened markedly. It is the duty of party organizations to pay the most serious attention to the intensification of anti-religious propaganda, and to make it militant and aggressive."

Similar warnings to communist party workers have been issued in other regions of the USSR, the Information Agency says.

The Soviet ideological journal *Kommunist* also made it clear that the new "flexibility" in communist tactics does not include relaxation of the fight against religion. The Information Agency cites an article in the communist publication which declares:

"It is particularly important to underline the requirement of a scientific atheist direction to our propaganda work. Lenin pointed out, 'We must struggle against religion. This is the ABC of all materialism and, consequently, of Marxism. But Marxism is not materialism stopping short of the A. B and C. Marxism goes further. It says that one must know how to struggle against religion and for this it is necessary to know how to explain materialistically the source of faith within the masses.' "

Kommunist declared that "against the religious point of view, Marxism counterposes . . . the materialistic method of explaining nature, society and thought," the Information Agency reports.

MORE COMMUNIST READING ORDERED FOR CHINESE CHILDREN

Red China is intensifying its efforts to fill its children's minds with officially correct symbols of Marx, Lenin and Mao Tse-Tung, the U. S. Information Agency reports.

The Agency said in overseas press dispatches and Voice of America broadcasts that the New China News Agency has printed a directive ordering all authors to provide children this year with at least one work which reflects "the communist spirit."

The directive, issued by the Union of Chinese Writers, explains:

It is absolutely essential to enhance the ideological and political character of the literary works for juveniles and children. Such character should be manifested through the form of vivid and artistic symbols. There must be novels, stories, poems, songs and plays. There must also be fairy tales, folklore, scientific and imaginative reading matter and sensational novels. Works should indoctrinate the juveniles and children with the communist spirit."

WET AND DRY NEWSPAPERS

DAILY NEWSPAPERS: There are in the United States 201 daily newspapers that are totally dry—dry on liquor, wine and beer; 127 daily papers that are dry on liquor and wine; 171 daily papers that are dry on liquor only, making a total of 499 daily papers that are dry on liquor.

WEEKLY NEWSPAPERS: There are in the United States 2,086 weekly newspapers that are totally dry; 896 weekly newspapers that are dry on liquor and wine; 534 weekly newspapers that are dry on liquor only, making a total of 3,516 that are dry on liquor.

The study shows almost 25% of the 8,428 weekly newspapers published in the United States are totally dry and over 41% of them are dry on liquor. While the percentage of dry dailys would be less than the above, they are still a very considerable number and some of them have a very large circulation.

Why do so many newspaper editors and publishers refuse alcoholic beverage advertisements? Most of them, we believe, on the basis of principle. They are opposed to the traffic and will have nothing to do with promoting it by advertising its products. Others may refuse because many of their subscribers are against the liquor business and on this account refuse advertising it.

In either case this shows how wide spread and strong is the public sentiment against liquor advertising and the traffic it is designed to promote.

This also should be considered; many of these dry papers are sustaining a heavy financial loss by refusing alcoholic beverage advertisements. The Distillers and Brewers are spending over ONE QUARTER of a billion dollars a year in advertising their products over all the media they employ, and 77 million dollars in newspaper advertising for the year of 1955. They could obtain a revenue of many millions by opening their column to liquor advertising. Not withstanding the mounting cost of paper and printing they are holding steady against the temptation.

—R. H. Martin

LET'S FORTIFY FREEDOM WITH FAITH

(*Continued from page* 1)

Let me show you Christian freedom. It is the greatest in all the world. First there is a freedom from that terrible thing called the guilt of sin. Men and women who have sinned and still taste of the horror of that guilt, who cannot get it out of their minds or hearts, day or night, wherever they are, are haunted as if by a ghost and can never be free, regardless of whether they live in America or not. The way to find freedom from the guilt of our sin is found in the wonderful and glorious truth of Jesus Christ, our Lord. Through a faith in Him sins can be forgiven, the guilt is gone, and man knows

the wonder and the glory of peace.

There is another peace and a great freedom that is offered to us in the Christian Gospel, which is freedom not only from the guilt of sin but from the power of sin. Look at it. If you don't mind, stop and think of the millions of alcoholics in America who are not free. They are slaves. Think of the millions of people in America whose hearts are led by hatred, bitterness, and jealousy. They are not free; they are slaves, regardless of where they live. You see, when you sin, as the Scriptures tell us, you become a servant of sin. Sin has dominion over you and you are not free.

Yes, the Christian Gospel cuts the bonds and sets us free so we can live and enjoy living. This, my friends, is the freedom that is given in Christ. Now when you talk about defending freedom with faith, here is what you need: the power of the Christ that can help us defend freedom.

Faith Defined

Fortify freedom with faith. But just to say fortify freedom with faith in not enough. We must define this faith, so those who are proclaiming this great truth today want to define it. They are urging the people of America to go back into the churches where they can find a true understanding of Christian faith.

How many people have sought freedom through faith but followed the wrong thing. They had faith in the wrong cause. That is the trouble today with all the satellite countries of Russia. Ah! It must be a faith that is built on Jesus Christ, our Lord; and when we have a freedom built on this type faith, then we have a freedom that lasts. It is a freedom that works. As a man thinketh in his heart, so is he; and the man who builds his hope on Jesus Christ now has something on which he can have a freedom that works.

Look at our noble forefathers, Washington and others. They had implicit faith in the living Christ and today we have the America we know. Now you and I, their sons and daughters, had better have an implicit faith in the same Christ, or we will never be able to hand the glorious America we know today to our posterity. There is the challenge we face. Let's fortify freedom with faith.

How to possess this faith? The world has the answer. Do not fool yourself. Anywhere you turn somebody will tell you how to have faith, but I would like, my friends, for you to turn to the word of God that I read a few moments ago, and there you will find out how to have faith. Jesus said to these men, "If my word abides in you, then are you my disciples indeed; then you shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free." There is the answer. As the word of God abides in you, then you grow in faith.

Read The Word

On the syndicated page of last Sunday's Times Union, there was an article urging people for this summer to make it a plan to read the Bible through. Let us at least read the Gospels through this summer. Get acquainted with Jesus Christ as He is revealed to us through the word of God. As you do, believe me, you will find yourself growing in faith; you will find yourself trusting the will of God; and you will find the wonders of His grace, for faith comes through the word of God. Read your Bible, study your Bible, is the plea of the church to the American people and to the peoples of all the world.

"When you let my word come in you, then you become My disciple." Ah, now as the word of God comes in you, then you come into the church, into the other group of Christians. The man who talks about being a Christian and stays outside by himself is making a misinterpretation of the Christian Gospel, for the early church brought the disciples into the church as one; and there as one they grew in faith, for they studied the word of God together. There as one they increased in knowledge and they put their religion into practice in the church, of loving one another, of helping one another, of doing the great work that God wanted them to do.

Fortify freedom with faith. My friends, here then is the answer. Get busy and develop faith. Study God's word; come into the church; fellowship with Christian people; learn how to love and how to forgive in the church, then put it in your home, and then into the world. There is the way to develop faith.

Result of Faith

Faith produces a definite result. When you and I develop this faith, then we have freedom; and when we have freedom, then we know the great joy of living. Analyze the situation. The facts are these: As you know God's word, you know God. You begin to learn more about Him, and as you know more about God, then God lives in you. It is wonderful. The living Christ. As you study God's word. you learn more about other people. You learn how to get along with them. Whether their skin is black, white, or tan does not make any difference. You learn more about other people whatever their nationality, whether it is Russian, French, British, African, or American. You learn they are children of God. You learn that when they are stabbed, they bleed like you and I bleed. You learn that when they are dead, they are dead; and women's hearts bleed, and children are reared as orphans. It teaches us something about God. It teaches us something about other people. It teaches us something about ourselves. When you grow in faith, you fortify freedom, for you find out your inability to live as you ought to live. Therefore, you look to the living Christ to give you strength and to help you live.

You see, you can talk about freedom all you want, but unless you are right inside, you cannot have personal freedom. Unless the Nation is right, it cannot enjoy freedom. And unless we know God's word and find the great truths and facts of life, we can have no freedom.

Last month in the Reader's Digest there was an article, which if it had been written by me or any other preacher, you would all have said the man did not know what he was talking about. But the article was written by none other than Gen. Douglas MacArthur on the subject: "Can We Outlaw War?" General MacArthur spoke of the evolution of war since he had been in the Armed Forces. He spoke of the efforts to stop war and to outlaw war. They have failed. He said as a whole the Russian people do not want war any more than the American people as a whole want war. He said the time has come. War will have to be outlawed because we now have such tremendous and terrible weapons that everybody who can think knows that the next war, regardless of which side comes out victorious, we will all lose, and everybody will be destroyed. He says now we cannot have another war and live. As I read it, I remembered it was the very same man who at the surrender of Japan said the same thing, and he said the problem now is a theological one.

The Only Hope

What is he saying? The same as our subject: "Let's fortify freedom with faith." The problem is a theological one, that only as a man knows God will a man be able to wake up and see the horrors of the next war. Only as a man knows God will he find out how to get along with himself, how to get along with his fellowmen. It is the only hope of mankind.

Let's begin with you and with me. Let's put our own souls into the life of the living Christ and let Him give us power and grace to live together with one another, and then pray God the rest of the world will do likewise.

Fortify freedom with faith, but remember—let the faith begin inside you. It will become contagious and you will begin to propagate it to the man who is near you.

INTERNATIONAL CHRISTIAN LEADERSHIP AND THE BIBLE IN THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

International Christian Leadership, Inc. is a recent recruit to the cause of restoring the Bible and religion to their rightful place in the public schools of our country. At its annual meeting at Washington, D. C. last February this laymen's organization, according to Religious News Service, "Specifically urged that the Bible be restored to the public schools within the framework of existing law . . . recognizing the rights of our brothers of existing religious faiths." They insisted that, "school children be taught the close and essential relationship between our religion and our way of life, and called for particular emphasis upon the relationship between the Bible and basic American documents, with the Scriptures recognized as the spiritual foundation of our Declaration of Independence, the Constitution and the Bill of Rights," and as "The basis of the moral and spiritual character of the future citizens and leaders of our country."

With a view to learning more about the objectives, personnel and methods of this organization and of cooperation with it on behalf of the Bible in the public schools the writer spent several days in Washington in contacting and conferring with a number of its leaders. He learned that its National Officers and many others prominent in the organization held high positions in the service of the government.

We found these leaders very cooperative. They presented us with a complete program of the opening breakfast of the 1955 Conference in the Mayflower Hotel, Washington.

The addresses and remarks made at this breakfast evidence a profound appreciation of our religious heritage as a nation and the conviction that our only safety lies in its maintenance. The attendance at the breakfast was six-hundred.

This program also set forth the objectives of the organization:

1. To develop men and women committed to Christ in key positions of leadership the world over.
2. To foster Christian faith and to link Christian forces in order to strengthen the total impact.

In achieving their objectives they rely chiefly upon breakfast, lunch and dinner groups which they are organizing over the country and in other lands. These groups usually meet once a week for prayer, Bible study and application of Christian standards and ideals in their positions in political and business life.

In these crucial times when we as Christians have to fight secularism and atheism in governmental life and institutions here at home, as well as a godless Totalitarianism and Communism in the world at large, it is gratifying and ground for encouragement that these groups of Christians dedicated to Christ are meeting weekly for prayer and the study of God's Word with a view to carrying its principles out in the realm of government and business as well as individual life. We are especially thankful that they have the insight to see that to maintain our religious heritage as a nation and prepare our youth for citizenship we must restore the Bible with its fundamental moral and spiritual truths to our publice schools. We of the National Reform Association which has pioneered in this field for almost a century, look forward to cooperation with this organization in this vitally important task.

Let us help them by prayer and commendation.

—R. H. Martin

I Speak For Christian Citizenship

By NELDA JEAN THOMAS, Houston, Texas

(This letter and her record of citizenship activities won for Miss Thomas first place in Division B in the 1956 Christian Citizenship Award Contest sponsored by the International Society of Christian Endeavor.)

A Letter to My Congressman

My dear Sir:

Today, Christ gazes sadly upon a world in which prejudice causes intelligent men to lose all sense of reason and love; in which hate causes men to manufacture instruments of war which could destroy mankind in an instant. He sees people who have become so busy trying to find scientific answers to the problems of life that they have almost forgotten the healing power of Jesus Christ; He sees insincerity and apathy in the hearts of Christian leaders. With a heavy, yet patient, heart He stands and knocks at the door of the world, longing to be admitted, for He knows that He—and only He—is able to roll the dark clouds of communism, crime, prejudice, and war from the skies and once again bring light to the world.

It is true that we live in a revolutionary world. Nevertheless, let us not forget that Christ, also, was a revolution, and what could be more revolutionary than love in a world of hate and confusion. Therefore, I believe the solution to the many problems of today's world lies in planting the spirit of Christ-like love in the hearts of men everywhere. Where do we begin?

The basic issues concerning the destiny of the whole world rest chiefly in the outcome of the present struggle for superiority between the two strongest powers of the world—America and Russia—democracy and totalitarianism—a nation founded on God and a nation believing God to be a myth. Will communism spread until it has enveloped America, too; or can the principles upon which America was founded meet the test of strength? The answer to this question is an uncertain one, indeed, for first we must examine to see if America is *really* a Christian nation. Are alcoholism, dope addiction, gambling, murder, broken homes, illegal sex conduct, degrading literature, immoral entertainment, and prejudices characteristics typifying a nation whose trust is in God? How can America shine a light of Christianity to other nations until she has first been cleansed of corruption on her own shores?

Probably the most important single factor contributing to America's failure to secure the favor of other nations, and one which enemies of our nation are quick to emphasize, is the demonic element in our policies governing race relations. . . .

None of us like to think of ourselves as slaveholders; yet, while American does not enforce the slavery of chains, certain sections enforce the slavery of custom and law which commands: Use the rear seats. Don't go in that waiting room. Don't eat in that restaurant. Don't use that library. Don't go to that school. Don't attend that church. Why? Because you're a Negro! Similarly, the American Indian, though he is allowed most of the above privileges, is receiving little encouragement to enter into the common stream of life, and one will find most of his race living in frighteningly inadequate government reservations. No, these people are not the victims of chains, but wounds to the spirit may be much deeper than mere leg sores produced by shackles.

"For there is neither Jew nor Greek, bond nor free, male nor female; for all are one in Jesus Christ." As Christian citizens, we must set about righting the wrong which our forefathers committed, not only because we seek the good opinion of the world, but even more because we seek the approval of God, and the people in question are children of God.

How, then, are Christians to go about correcting these evils?

The success of the American experiment in democracy, as well as Christianity, depends in the last analysis upon the character of the individual citizens. If the citizens are honest, capable, and intelligent, the future of the nation, however much it may be temporarily eclipsed by the shadows of communism, may still be bright; but if the citizens are unworthy, the future becomes nothing more than the darkest gloom. By the same measure, no other single institution serves to shape the life of a citizen as does the home. It is in the home that the character of an individual is molded, that a person's sense of values and moral standards are formed, and that a child first learns the teachings of Jesus and their application to daily life. Consequently, the success, the prosperity, the righteousness of America depends upon the ability of its citizens to build homes that exercise the principles established in Ephesians 6:1-4: "Children, obey your parents in the Lord . . . Honour thy father and mother . . . And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath; but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord."

Despite the fact that numerous evils lurk on the American home front, we still recognize democracy, over all present forms of government, as the most in favor with the will of God. If we are concerned about the welfare of America and wish to preserve the freedoms we enjoy, we must strive to be informed on the functions of the government, as well as the latest happenings in the world at large; we

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